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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION MOGADISCIO INFO ADDIS ABABA FROM SECSTATE WASHDC APR 24:

QUOTE CONFIDENTIAL STATE 083973

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA DROUGHT - USE OF U.S. MILITARY HELICOPTERS

- 1. TENTATIVE PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO DEPLOY THREE U.S. MILITARY HELICOPTERS TO ETHIOPIA FOR USE IN A MEDICAL/NUTRITION REQUIREMENT SURVEY EFFORT IN COOPERATION WITH THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT.
- 2. THE SURVEY IS PLANNED FOR THE FIVE OR SIX SOUTHERNMOST PROVINCES INCLUDING HARRARGE, BOLE AND SIDAMO ON THE SOMALI BORDER. THE DURATION OF THE SURVEY IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 5 WEEKS, TENTATIVELY MAY 10 JUNE 15. THREE U.S. HELICOPTERS AND CREWS WOULD BE USED TO FERRY SURVEY TEAMS IN AND OUT OF REMOTE AREAS, AND TO AIRLIFT RELIEF SUPPLIES TO POCKETS OF ACUTE DISTRESS AS AND WHEN THESE ARE IDENTIFIED. CREWS WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO MAINTAIN CERTAIN DISTANCES FROM THE BORDER, SAY 50 MILES, HOWEVER THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO INSURE BECAUSE OF THE UNDEFINED NATURE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF THE BORDER.

- 3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS THIS PLAN IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE SOMALI REACTION TO U.S. MILITARY IN THE AREAS AND CONSEQUENCES OF ACCIDENTAL BORDER CROSSINGS, ETC.
- 4. IF ADVISABLE, SUGGEST DISCUSSING WITH GSDR. MIGHT POINT OUT OUR GENERAL HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR WELFARE OF ALL NOMADIC AND OTHER PEOPLE IN THE AREA.

DECONTROL FOLLOWING 4/23/75. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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